

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 /129 W

-----127350 191904Z /64

R 191208Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1823
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: MTN REQUESTS

REF: STATE 140975

1. EMBASSY INFORMED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
CONTENTS REFTEL REGARDING US EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO MTN
REQUESTS. GOJ MADE ITS SUBMISSION EARLY IN 1978 AND
NO SUPPLEMENTARY REQUESTS ARE EXPECTED.

2. IN A SPEECH ON JUNE 14 FOR GOJ BUDGET DEBATE, FOREIGN
MINISTER P. J. PATTERSON MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS REGARDING
STATUS OF MTN. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF PATTERSON'S
REMARKS:

AFTER THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS IN SEPTEMBER 1973 WHEN
THE METN BEGAN, THE GOJ NOW FINDS THAT MANY OF THE
NEGOTIATING PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE TOKYO
DECLARATION, SUCH AS NON-RECIPROCITY ON THE PART
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ARE BEING SERIOUSLY
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ERODED.
IN THE ADDITION, THE GOJ FINDS THAT THE TOKYO ROUND
HAS LOST ITS MULTILATERAL CHARACTER AND IS NOW LARGELY
CHARACTERIZED AS A SERIES OF BI-LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS
AMONG THE MAJOR TRADING POWERS.

SUCH ADVANCES AS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED IN THE TARIFF

FIELD ARE NOW IN SERIOUS DANGER OF BEING WITHDRAWN
OR SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. AS REGARDS THE PRIORITY
SECTOR OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN WHICH COUNTRIES LIKE
JAMAICA HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST HARDLY ANY IMPROVEMENTS
HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE OFFERS BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
THE HEAVY HAND OF PROTECTIONISM IS ARRESTING PROGRESS
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH COULD BRING ABOUT ANY
MEANINGFUL LIBERALIZATION OF WORLD TRADE.

WHATEVER EMERGES FROM THIS LATEST ROUND OF TARIFF
NEGOTIATIONS, WHETHER MODERATE OR MINIMAL TARIFF CUTS,
DRAFT CODES OF INTERNATIONAL CONDUCT WHETHER ADEQUATE
OR ILL CONSIDERED - IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE THE
LAST MAJOR MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION OF THIS KIND FOR
A LONG TIME TO COME.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REVERSE THE TIDE OF PROTECTIONISM
WHICH IS THREATENING THE NEGOTIATIONS. WHAT IS REQUIRED
IS A NEW AND MAJOR EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS
DO ACHIEVE A LARGE MEASURE OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION
PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
IRVING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITIES, TRADE PROTECTIONISM, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, EXCEPTIONS LIST
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINGST04838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780255-0692
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780645/aaaabmsk.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 75fd4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 140975
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2301540
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN REQUESTS
TAGS: ETRD, JM, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75fd4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014